

THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY CHAPTER (HEBER CITY, UTAH)

## THE CITY NAMED HEBER AND THE MOUNTAIN

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The Mountain and the broad expanse of the valley to the east would sleep for another eight decades. In 1825, Etienne Provost, a French Mountain Man and trapper, had reaped a harvest of beaver plewes and had left his name on a river and later the settlement of "Provo

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The spring and summer of 1858 brought several restless frontiersmen attracted by the lush green of the meadow lands and the pristine beauty of the rolling highlands. In July of 1858 the first survey was made for the townsite, J. W. Snow, the county surveyor at Provo, laid out 20-acre tracts just north of present day Heber City. During the late summer and early fall, the cattlemen scythed, cradled and stacked a winter's supply of hay from the subirrigated bottom lands.

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By the middle of 1858 the "Mormon War" had subsided just a bit and Gen. Johnson's troops were apparently peacefully garrisoned at Camp Floyd near Utah Lake. The pressing need of a road again presented itself. At a bowery meeting at Provo on June 6, 1858 Church President Brigham Young. leaving no possibility of misunderstanding stated. "A road up Provo Kanyon is much-needed and we want 10 or 20 companies of laborers to go on it forthwith in order to finish it in about 15 days so that you can go into the valleys of the Weber where there is plenty of timber...we shall need about 500 laborers.

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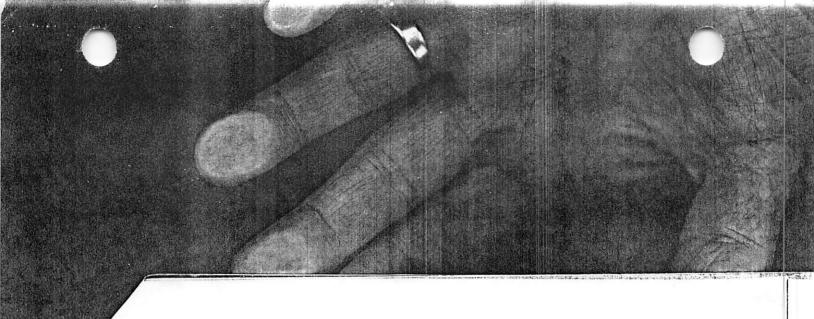
#### CENTRAL ELECTRIC CO., INC.

1397 South Main Salt Lake City , Utah 84115 (801) 467 5479

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We hear from John Crook frequently during the subsequent years. Apparently Crook was a dedicated recorder of those eventful days. His chronicle reads "April 30, 1859, we camped at a snowslide in Provo Canyon that night. The next morning we pulled our wagons to pieces and carried them to the top of the snowslide which was about a

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In June 1859, the deputy county surveyor of Utah County, Jesse Fuller, laid out the town of London. The Sturdy log cabins were constructed from green cottonwood logs hauled from the riverbottoms and arranged in a compact rectangle leaving only space between each cabin for a guarded access to the innercourt.

With the seed in the ground and the new homes in readiness, the little party of men again made the three-day journey to Provo to unite and bring their families to the new land. That first growing season yielded nearly one thousand bushels

of grain — a first rate start. With a fair harvest of hay and grain there were now 18 families determined to brave the long Wasatch winter. Some less determined were to return to Provo, preferring the amenities of "the city". The first birth recorded among the colonizers occurred in November—a daughter of William Davidson and his wife Ellen. Appropriately the little girl was named Timpanogos — the Indian name for the valley and The Mountain.

The Davidsons were racking up a record of firsts. As predicted it was a severe winter — snow came early and heavy. For four months the colonizers were completely isolated from everything - not even a hermit trapper nor a wandering band of Indians appeared out of the vast whiteness; however, at Christmastime an adventuresome group from Provo breasted the snow and the mountains to spend part of the holidays with the pioneers.

The Wasatch winter held fast and by the first of April the pioneers began to have second thoughts. Winter-weary and anxious to get about further building, but with no sign of spring, they gathered at the home of Thomas Rasband to seek the help of the Lord. Humbly, earnestly and sincerely in prayer they let their needs be known. It is recorded "before the meeting was dismissed there was water dripping from the eaves of the house and spring was born in the valley

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Since many of the colonizers were of British decent and had been converted to the Church by the mis-

sionary, Heber C. Kimball, it was only natural that their settlement was to become Heber City. President Kimball was invited to attend the new city and the observance of the ceremony.

He is reported to have said, "Now you people have named your little town after me, I want you to see to it that you are honest upright citizens and good Latter-Day Saints that I may not have cause to be

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As the community grew, so did community problems. It was soon evident fences were needed to contain the animals. Fencing required some judicial authority and thus came into being an unique political official, "the fence viewer

Autumn harvests were good, however, the old mountain men's forecast of early frosts proved accurate. The 1860 harvest season brought an enterprising pair, Smith and Bullock, into the valley with the first thrashing machine, horse powered and inefficient. Slow but stable growth soon began to generate confidence and well-being. Choir and dramatics groups were formed. Our faithful chronicler, John Crook, was chosen as choir leader.

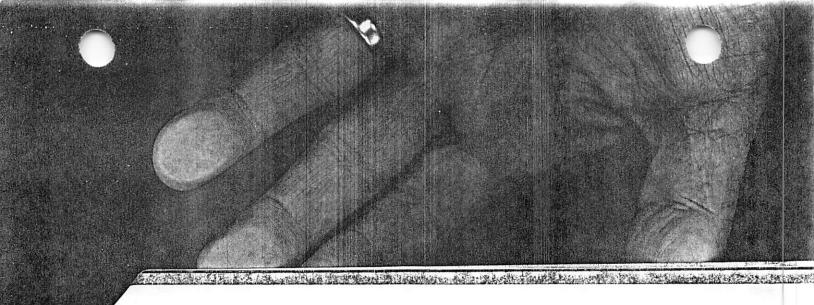
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In the second ceremony, only a few hours after the first, Harvey Meeks claimed as his bride a Miss Dougal. They were married by Silas

Smith at Center Creek.

In 1862, the first property valuation of the county was reported as \$48,350. In true frontier fashion, the independent spirits of the settlers did not readily accept the concept of property taxation. From the beginning, the burdens of the selectmen were many and varied.

In September of 1880 the Court House Committee reported to the selectmen that the construction costs to date were \$3,793.66. Upon completion two years later in 1882, the total costs were approximately \$4,600 plus \$250 for furniture. (continued on page 15)



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EAST MILL CREEK CHAPTER SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS

— D.P. Bartschi

of the Pioneer is December 15, 1980

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| ame to be inscribed in Pla                  | ıque            |
|---|-----------------|
| ntered Valley or Born Prior to May 10, 1869 |                 |
| ate of Birth                                | Died            |
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| ONORS NAME                                  | Current Address |
| hapter Affiliation                          | At Large        |

**GOLDEN ROAD** 

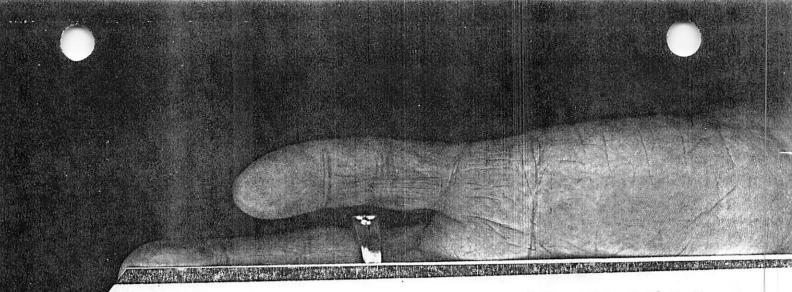
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Since the new Headquarters are right on this old road, the S.U.P. might very well exploit properly and fully this fortuitous circumstance. For example, the trail could become an annual run sponsored by the new Pioneer Trail Relay Chapter, the road could be more thoroughly researched, marked, written up, and publicized, and part of the S.U.P. Library could be devoted to it. Old maps of the trail could be framed and displayed. On the grounds of the trail could be framed and displayed. On the grounds of Headquarters an appropriate marker or monument could be placed telling the story of this old trail.

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LARKIN MORTUARY

260 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE PHONE 363-5781 Max Larkin-SLC Chapter, SUP



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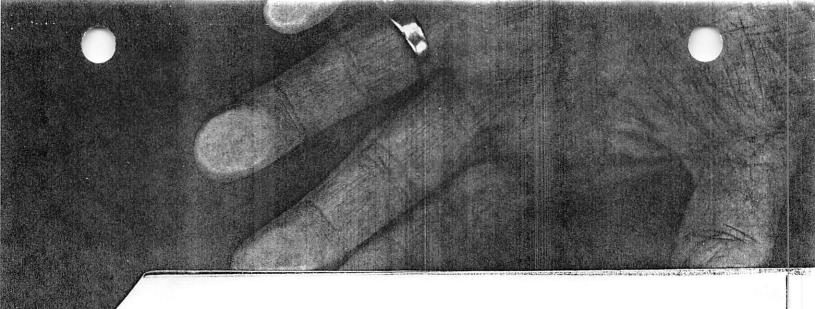
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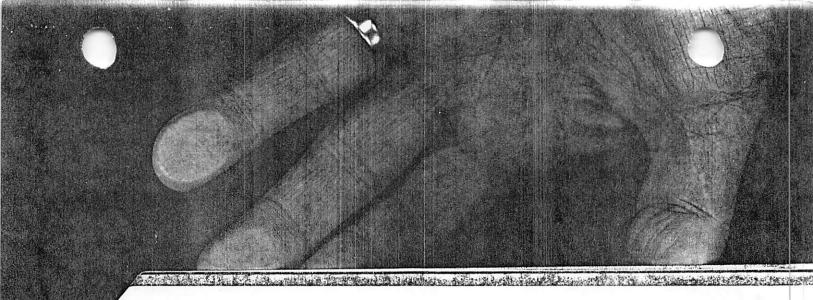
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| ame to be inscribed in Plaque               |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| ntered Valley or Born Prior to May 10, 1869 |                 |
| ate of Birth                                | Died            |
| /here                                       | Where           |
| ONORS NAME                                  | Current Address |
| hapter Affiliation                          | At Large        |

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260 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE PHONE 363-5781 Max Larkin-SLC Chapter, SUP